

(at beginning  
of paper)

diploma 437

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the P. N. E. U. was held on Wednesday June 27<sup>th</sup> at the Office.

"To reconsider the leaflet" was one of the notices on the Agenda paper.

This Leaflet appeared as an advertisement in the Parents Review & elsewhere.

On comparing the "Objects" as set forth in the leaflet with the original Objects of the Society, great differences appear.

The "Objects" of the Society which have been in force for six years were constitutionally framed by an able Committee afterwards ratified, with some modifications, at a meeting of the Central Council held at the College of Preceptors under the presidency of the Rev. Canon Daniel.

Amongst the Educationalists present on this occasion were Miss Clough, Miss Sherriff & D. Quick.



The special aim of the Committee & Council was to secure a broad & Catholic basis for the Society.

Pains were taken to frame "Objects" within which educationists of whatever school might work freely to avoid all such definiteness & minuteness as would be a limitation in the future in so progressive a science as Education.

It will be seen that both the letter & the spirit of the original objects are violated in this draft.



(at end  
of paper)

ilp3cme437

It seems desirable that all the members of the Society should know something of the question at issue, the more so as this is an opportunity to make it plainly understood that the apparent indefiniteness of the original 'Objects' is intentional & has a two-fold purpose:—

(a) To allow the utmost freedom & self-developing power to each Branch &—

(b) To leave the Society open to the steady advances of Education as a Science.

As the issue of the meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup> is rather a moot point to be again opened up at another meeting of the Executive Committee July 18<sup>th</sup>, the members of the Central Council & the Branches will be informed further after that date

new piece

(signed) C. M. Mason

Hon. Org. Sec.



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The objects of the Society which have been in force for six years were constitutionally framed by an able Committee & afterwards ratified, with some modification, at a meeting of the Central Council held at the College of Reception under the presidency of the Rev. Canon Daniell. Amongst the

present on this occasion were Messrs. C. H. S. & J. D. Davis



The special care of both C & Council  
was to secure a broad & catholic basis  
for the S.

Plans were taken to frame objects  
within which Educ Bish of whatever  
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such difficulties & limitations as would  
be a limitation in the future in to  
progress in a science as Education.

It will be seen that both the latter  
the spirit of the original objects are  
violated when they are.



Quite Confidential

13plcm437

The House of Education,  
Ambleside.

16. 5. 94.

My dear Dr Schofield

What a Comfort

you are! The two ladies

Lady Isabel & Miss Forsyth

have been here & departed -

a most pleasant visit

not unaccompanied by

15 hot discussion.

Lady Isabel is Charming,



her ardour & enthusiasm  
a pure delight - but the rush  
with which she takes things  
is appalling.

I well understand it must  
lean the Committee parting!  
The situation seems to be this -  
the Froebel people have got  
hold of Lady Isabel & are  
endeavouring to use her, & our  
Society through her, as a  
mere agency to advance R.G.  
principles & work.

For a whole day we contested  
the point - they were deeply loyal  
to me because - I taught Froebel!

The discussion was a little  
feminine & droll.

At one moment it was - that I  
had drawn all our P. N. E. U.  
teaching out of Froebel & was to  
be honoured as an interpreter of  
the great sage - The next moment,  
I had not read, did not understand  
Froebel, & that was why I held  
aloof!

I think the talk did some good  
Lady Isabel conceded that the  
Froebel Society was more or  
less a failure - & that the  
world had outgrown the R.G.  
but they both cling to Froebel  
as a mystic who has said



13p4cm437

The last word on Education.

In fact, I think they rank him  
with Wagner & Ibsen amongst the  
"Eternities & immensities." &  
We managed to agree to a  
Sentence to be submitted to the  
Committee - "Herbert Spencer &  
Frobel Supplemented by the  
progressive Scientific thought of  
the day" -

This would do - though personally  
I should rather we boldly  
claimed to originate our own  
School of Educational thought -  
hanging on, not to the Educational  
reformers - but to the physiologists  
of today & the philosophers of  
all time, but I trust all to



23p5emc437

The House of Education,  
Ambleside.

The Committee - only we must be  
on the alert -

I like Miss Forsyth much - she is  
a lady - refined & enthusiastic,  
& personally a credit to us - but  
she is easily led - at present  
Lady Isabel is her Committee &  
her P.N.E.U.!

However, both ladies have  
nailed their colours to the mast  
& announced great loyalty  
which is a gain.

I think the new scheme for a  
School of Housewives under  
Miss Forsyth a capital idea -



tone which should strengthen  
the hands of the Society.

I strongly counselled a year's  
delay to get our present work  
(Office, Review etc) in order - &  
also I doubt if Miss Forsyth can  
undertake the two trips, but  
the "rush" seems inevitable &  
the Donceville School might prove  
a safe outlet for energies.

I distinctly set down my foot  
against the opening of any  
branch House of Education on  
Ambleside Lines - & both  
ladies agreed that it would  
be impossible to secure  
elsewhere the elements of

our success here - & P. N. S. U. must  
not give sanction to a second-rate  
product must it?

We have all found a visit from  
"delegates" of the P. N. S. U. very  
stimulating & delightful - & the  
said delegates have been most  
cheering & sympathetic.

One thing more - The trustees  
will not let me have the big  
house I spoke of unless the  
Committee will be parties to  
the Contract - At first I  
utterly declined to propose this -  
but seeing that the Society  
derives an income of £100 or more  
from the students (22 at present)



isp8cm437

that there is some human probability  
of my being able to pay the rent for  
the seven years lease, even if our  
numbers do not increase, I think  
the Committee might venture to do  
this for us - Rent £150.

Could you bring this also before  
Committee.

The residence in different  
houses is a most serious  
drawback -

Most truly yours.

(Signed) C. H. Mason.



23p9amc437

The House of Education,  
Ambleside.

P.S.

Of course the discussion I  
spoke of re our "Objects"  
took place with the idea  
on my part that the  
innovation had been  
sanctioned by the Committee.  
Your letter makes the whole  
affair very serious.

I see not conceivable reason  
for altering our "Objects"  
at all as the clauses  
stand they express all



We want & before ever they were  
 laid before Committee they  
 were discussed, amended &  
 passed by about a hundred  
 of what seemed to me the  
 ablest & wisest public men &  
 women in England.



The following Statement read by me at the Committee Meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup> may help to elucidate the question.  
Sir

Before proposing my resolution, may I say a few words. I find that the Society is not competent to ~~to~~ change the "Objects" for the furtherance of which it was established upon which all members hitherto have joined.

For the Change in question, as set forth in the "Leaflet" let me urge that:—

(a) So far as Education is an enthusiasm we are inspired by the thought of the great Educationists; so far as it is a science we are unable to pledge ourselves to the principles of ~~any~~ teacher past or present.